

Senior Curator (Full-Time, Permanent)



National Galleries Scotland

NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

POST OF SENIOR CURATOR (BAND 5A)
FULL-TIME, PERMANENT

The National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) cares for, develops, researches and displays the national collection of Scottish and international art and, with a lively and innovative programme of activities, exhibitions, education and publications, aims to engage, inform and inspire the broadest possible public.

The NGS is a non-departmental public body centrally funded by the Scottish Government. It is internationally renowned, attracts nearly 1.5 million visitors per year and consists of the following complexes in Edinburgh:

- The National Gallery of Scotland Complex, on The Mound, featuring the National Gallery, the Royal Scottish Academy Building and the Weston Link
- The Scottish National Portrait Gallery on Queen Street
- The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and Dean Gallery at Belford Road

There are also partner galleries: Duff House in Banff and Paxton House in Berwickshire.

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery (SNPG) houses the nation's collection of portraits. Its primary function is to acquire, display and interpret the portraits of the Scottish men and women whose lives and achievements helped shape the history of this nation and the wider world. The collection covers a period of over 450 years and comprises nearly 5,000 unique portraits and over 25,000 prints. The collection, across all media, contains masterpieces by the most highly regarded international artists and, uniquely, also provides a comprehensive survey of important aspects of Scottish art. The collection also includes a small but expanding number of landscapes recording aspects of the Scotland's rural and urban development. The gallery has an active acquisition policy, directed to augmenting both the historic and representative aspects of the collection and maintaining a vibrant programme of contemporary commissioning.

Following the appointment of David Taylor as Curator of Pictures and Sculpture at The National Trust, we are now looking for a Senior Curator to join the team at the SNPG. This is a particularly exciting time here following the successful completion in December 2011 of the multi-million pound refurbishment project which transformed the building and our presentation of the collections. The re-invented gallery has garnered excellent critical reviews and is now enjoying record visitor numbers.

The main purpose of this post is to play a significant and creative part in developing our continuing programme of displays, working to ensure that our vision for a vibrant, authoritative and enjoyable gallery continues to flourish. The post-holder will be expected to demonstrate a real and effective commitment to public engagement and will use their specialist knowledge to communicate enthusiastically with a broad range of audiences. The NGS has a strong track record in national and international collaboration and the post-holder will be encouraged to explore and realise opportunities for working in partnership.

We welcome applications from candidates with knowledge across the chronology and spectrum of the SNPG's holdings, but we are particularly keen to hear from those with a strong background in C16th - C17th studies, or a willingness to use their proven wider skills as (art) historians to address the early modern period.

The post-holder reports to the Interim Director of the SNPG.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Contribute to the programme of Key Area Displays which underpins our new Interpretation Strategy at the SNPG. The post-holder will have responsibility for the presentation of the earlier segment of the collections, from the mid-sixteenth to the close of the seventeenth century. Using their knowledge of the collections and working closely with colleagues across the NGS, in particular Education, Digital Media, Conservation and Collections Management, they will research, plan and deliver imaginative, lively and original displays.
2. Develop their specialist knowledge of Scottish portraiture and history within the early modern period. The post-holder will be expected to gain an in-depth knowledge of the relevant sections of the collection, including related material across the NGS/Scotland as a whole, and demonstrate the highest standards of scholarship.
3. Be alert to possible additions to the SNPG collections, researching and advising on potential acquisitions, preparing grant applications.
4. Answer written and verbal enquiries from the general public and from academics, curators and researchers outwith the NGS; sharing responsibility for showing visitors works in store and the print room, giving authoritative opinions when required.
3. Represent their area internally within the NGS - liaising with Education, Digital Media, Development, Press and Marketing, and Conservation and Collections Management and other central departments, providing information and text as required for press releases, bulletins, sponsorship proposals etc. Participate in internal committees as appropriate and take an active part in the broader organisational needs of the NGS.

4. Represent their specialist area externally, advising colleagues outwith the NGS and, as delegated, representing the SNPG and NGS.

5. Any other duties appropriate to the post.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Educated to degree level in History of Art or related field
- Evidence of sharing specialist knowledge enthusiastically and effectively with a wide variety of audiences
- A strong interest in, and knowledge of, Scottish history and society
- Previous experience of working in a curatorial role
- Proven research skills
- Demonstrable first-class written and verbal communication skills
- A co-operative, collaborative attitude; a team player who is also able to lead
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills, including an ability to prioritise effectively, meet deadlines and work accurately and within budgets
- Effective IT skills including competent use of common office software.

Desirable

- Specialist or post-graduate knowledge of Scottish and/or British history
- Specialist or post-graduate knowledge of British portraiture
- An informed awareness of contemporary cultural debates
- An interest in interpretation methodologies
- A knowledge of at least one other European language

SUMMARY TERMS & CONDITIONS

Salary: £28,438 – 31,155 per annum

Starting salaries will normally be at the minimum or at a rate that reflects qualifications and/or experience which are of special value for the post and which are above minimum entry requirements.

Hours: 42 per week inclusive of meal breaks

Annual Leave: 25 days per annum

All staff receive 10.5 public and privilege holidays per annum

Pension: Civil Service pension provisions enables the National Galleries of Scotland to offer a choice of occupational and stakeholder pensions, giving you the flexibility to choose the pension that suits you best.

The closing date for completed applications is Monday 5th March 2012.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place on w/c 26th March 2012.

Please note that the successful candidates will be subject to Basic Disclosure Scotland security clearance.

National Galleries of Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland (No. SC003728)

Location:	Edinburgh
Category:	Curatorial
Duration:	
Type of Contract:	Permanent
Hours:	Full Time
added: Feb. 8, 2012	deadline: March 5, 2012

More information: <http://www.nationalgalleries.org/jobs>